

~Lucifer or Satan? Are they one and the same?~

One author states the origin of this myth thusly:

“The word "Lucifer" in Isaiah 14:12 presents a minor problem to mainstream Christianity. It becomes a much larger problem to Bible literalists.

"Lucifer makes his appearance in the fourteenth chapter of the Old Testament book of Isaiah, at the twelfth verse, and nowhere else: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations”!

The first problem is that Lucifer is a Latin name. So how did it find its way into a Hebrew manuscript, written before there was a Roman language? To find the answer, I consulted a scholar at the library of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. What Hebrew name, I asked, was Satan given in this chapter of Isaiah, which describes the angel who fell to become the ruler of hell? By the way, there is no ruler of hell (*another myth*) as there is no ruler in the Lake of Fire. In fact, hell (Gehenna) is the final abode of Satan and his angels where they will be tormented forever and ever. He and his angels shun the place as we do!!

The answer was a surprise. In the original Hebrew text, the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah is *not about a fallen angel, but about a fallen Babylonian king*, who during his lifetime had persecuted the children of Israel. It contains no mention of Satan, either by name or reference. The Hebrew scholar could only speculate that some early *Christian scribes*, writing in the Latin tongue used by the Church, *had decided for themselves* that they wanted the story to be about a fallen angel, a creature not even mentioned in the original Hebrew text, and to whom they gave the name "Lucifer."

Why Lucifer? In Roman astronomy, Lucifer was the name given to the morning star (the star we now know by another Roman name, Venus). The morning star appears in the heavens just before dawn, heralding the rising sun. The name derives from the Latin term *lucem ferre*, bringer, or bearer, of light." In the Hebrew text, the expression used to describe the Babylonian king, before his death, is Helal, son of Shahar, which can best be translated as "Day star, son of the Dawn." The name evokes the golden glitter of a proud king's dress and court (much as his personal splendor earned for King Louis XIV of France the appellation, "The Sun King").

The scholars authorized by ... King James I to translate the Bible into current English did not use the original Hebrew texts, but used versions translated ... largely by St. Jerome in the fourth century. Jerome had mistranslated the Hebraic metaphor, "Day star, son of the Dawn," as "Lucifer," and over the centuries a metamorphosis took place. Lucifer the morning star became a disobedient angel, cast out of heaven to rule eternally in hell. Theologians, writers, and poets interwove the myth with the doctrine of the Fall, and in Christian tradition Lucifer is now the same as Satan, the Devil, and --- ironically --- the Prince of Darkness.

So "Lucifer" is nothing more than an ancient Latin name for the morning star, the bringer of light. That can be confusing for Christians who identify Christ himself as the morning star, a term used as a central theme in many Christian sermons. Jesus refers to Himself as the morning star in Revelation 22:16: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and *the bright and morning star.*"

And so, there are those who do not read other than the King James Version of the Bible, who say 'Lucifer is Satan: so says the Word of God!....'
(and thus, perpetuate the myth!-(bob)
John Robinson

Lucifer, as depicted in Collin de Plancy's Dictionnaire Infernal (1863). *"In modern and late Medieval Christian thought, Lucifer is a fallen angel commonly associated with Satan, the embodiment of evil and enemy of God. Lucifer is generally considered, based on the influence of Christian literature and legend, to have been a prominent archangel in heaven (although some contexts say he was a cherub or a seraph), prior to having been motivated by pride to rebel against God. When the rebellion failed, Lucifer was cast out of heaven, along with a third of the heavenly host, and came to reside on the world."* -emphasis mine-bob

Lucifer is a Latin word meaning "light-bearer" (from lux, "light", and ferre, "to bear, bring"), a Roman astrological term for the "Morning Star", the planet Venus. The word Lucifer was the direct translation of the Greek eosphorus ("dawn-bearer"; cf. Greek phosphorus, "light-bearer") used by Jerome in the Vulgate, having, mythologically, the same meaning as Prometheus who brings the light to the man. In that passage, Isaiah 14:12, it referred to one of the popular honorific titles of a Babylonian king; however, later interpretations of the text, and the influence of embellishments in works such as Dante's The Divine Comedy and Milton's Paradise Lost, led to the common idea in Christian mythology and folklore that Lucifer was a poetic appellation of Satan. 1966 heylel (hay-lale'); from 1984 (in the sense of brightness); the morning-star-(emphasis mine-bob)

The name 'Lucifer' occurs only ONCE and ONLY in the KJV Bible.

KJV-- lucifer (the king of Babylon). 1966 heylel- Lucifer = "light-bearer"

- 1) the shining one, the morningstar, Lucifer
- 2) Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament: `Helel,' describing the king of Babylon
- 3) The name "Lucifer" is NOT a name-- it is a description!!

*"The Jewish Encyclopedia reports that "it is obvious that the prophet (Isaiah), in attributing to the Babylonian king boastful pride, followed by a fall, borrowed the idea from a popular legend connected with the morning star." **The Jews do not see this as speaking of Satan!***

See how 3 different versions render the verse:

Isa 14:12

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (**KJV**)

Is 14:12

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (*NIV*)

Isa 14:12

King of Babylon, bright morning star, you have fallen from heaven! In the past you conquered nations, but now you have been thrown to the ground. (*TEV*)

The immediate context of Isaiah 14 says nothing of Satan, but rather is speaking of the King of Babylon. See the following verse.

Isa 14:4 “You will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended!”

To make matters worse, this verse has been melded with another set of verses, in the book of Ezekiel, to build EVEN MORE myths about "Lucifer" even though the word "Lucifer" does not even appear there! In fact, neither does the name 'Satan'

The immediate context of Ezekiel 28 says nothing of Satan, but is speaking of the King of Tyre. See the following verse.

Ezek 28:12-18 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the King of Tyre and say to him: 'this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'you were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.'"

Well, if the immediate contexts of Isaiah and Ezekiel are speaking of the King of Babylon and the King of Tyre, how did we ever get to see these as Satan, when in fact, no Biblical author, Old Testament or New, ever makes this connection!!

Again, traditionalism rears its unwanted head! . This wild theory was promoted by Tertullian and Origen in the 3rd century AD and caught on and has become very popular with many people, Christians and otherwise, to this day!

Christians believe this theory NOT because it is Biblical, but rather, because it is popular and traditional!!

If you couple Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, you end up with a description of ‘Lucifer’ that is pure imagination! The verses are speaking of **2** ancient Kings that God was addressing.

A) Let us look at the context of Ezekiel 28 and see who is being addressed and see how it cannot be Satan:

(my comments are in blue italics--bob)

12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. These verses are addressed to the King of Tyre! *This is describing the King of Tyre. It is not unusual to describe Royalty in such terms.*

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created (*created as King*) they were prepared. *Again, this is speaking of the King who spent time in Eden (a country that was involved in trade with Tyre). The King is described as possessing all manner of jewels, as was normal, and speaks of the day of his inauguration as King.*

14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. *This tells us that the King of Tyre had been on the holy mount of God, in Jerusalem and, as King, was a guardian of the people. Does this mean he was in heaven?*

15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. *After being made King, he committed sin and was 'thrown down to the ground'—debased, degraded, humiliated.*

16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub from amid the fiery stones. *There are many appellations that are attributed to Kings. These are some of them. They certainly do not portray Satan. For example: "Where does it say that Satan was ever a covering cherub? It says that the King of Tyre was, but not Satan, unless you read INTO the verse something that is not there!"*

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth and I made a spectacle of you before kings. *The King of Tyre was proud of his status and looks and became wicked so God humiliated him and removed him from the throne. This never happened to Satan, but did to the King of Tyre. When was Satan ever made a spectacle before Kings?*

18 By your many sins and dishonest trade (*dishonest trade was never committed by Satan but was by the King of Tyre in his dealings with other countries. What 'trade' did Satan have?*) you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. *Again, this cannot be speaking of Satan as he was never reduced to ashes on the ground in the sight of all. His destiny was the lake of fire!*

B) Let us take a look at the context of Isaiah 14 and see who is addressed and how it cannot be

Satan:

(my comments in red italics-bob)

4 That you shall take up this proverb against the **King of Babylon**, and say, how has the oppressor ceased! The golden city ceased....

12...How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, (O shining one) or (O bright one) This is addressed to the King of Babylon! (*the term 'falling from heaven' does not mean literally, but, according to Hebrew hyperbole, it means from a lofty position*) son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, who did weaken the nations! *again, (as with the King of Tyre, God humiliated him). Remember the story of Nebuchadnezzar?*

13 For you said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: *This is simply telling us that the King of Babylon wanted to be like God. How could Satan exalt his throne when he never had one?*

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. *If this were 'Satan', who was **already in heaven**, supposedly guarding the throne, then why would he have said that he would ascend?? Ascend to where? **He is already up there!** The location of this event was in Babylon—not Heaven!*

15 Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, **is this the man** that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; *When was Satan ever a man?*

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his house. *'Lucifer-or the King of Babylon' is included as part of "all the kings of the nations". This cannot be Satan.*

19 But you are cast out of your grave (*when was Satan ever in a grave?*) like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the

pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. *These verses surely speak of a man. Otherwise we have a spiritual being referred to as a 'carcass'!*

20 You shall not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, and slain your people: (*what land? what people? Satan has no land, no people*). The seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

No one would ever *naturally* think these 2 sets of verses were speaking of a spiritual being, called Satan! However, ONCE the idea is put into your mind that these verses are speaking of Satan, we then *read* that idea INTO the verses and believe it. If we are to believe anything in Scripture, there must be clear, plain evidence to prove it to us. Such is far from the case in these verses.

Let me quote from **Adam Clarke** who, in his commentary, says:

Is 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!

“[O Lucifer, son of the morning] The current Versions in general agree in this translation, and render heyleel (heb 1966) as signifying Lucifer, phosphoros, the morning star, whether Jupiter or Venus; as these are both bringers of the morning light, or morning stars, annually in their turn. *And although the context speaks explicitly concerning Nebuchadnezzar, yet this has been, I know not why, applied to the chief of the fallen angels, who is most incongruously denominated Lucifer, (the bringer of light!) an epithet as common to him as those of Satan and Devil. That the Holy Spirit by his prophets should call this archenemy of God and man the 'light-bringer', would be strange indeed. But the truth is, the text speaks nothing at all concerning Satan nor his fall, nor the occasion of that fall, which many divines have with great confidence deduced from this text.* O how necessary it is to understand the literal meaning of Scripture, that preposterous comments may be prevented! Besides, I doubt much whether our translation is correct. Heyleel (heb 1966), which we translate Lucifer, comes from yaalal (heb 3213), yell, howl, or shriek, and should be translated, "Howl, son of the morning;" and so the Syriac has understood it; and for this meaning Michaelis contends: see his reasons in Parkhurst, under haalal (heb 1984)” (*from Adam Clarke Commentary*) {emphasis mine-bob}

There is a great myth in Christendom about Lucifer being an angel who, while guarding the Throne of God, and even being a leader of the heavenly choir (?!), wanted to be like God, so he rebelled and suffered loss and was cast down to the earth where he became Satan the devil. It all sounds good, if you take a verse here and a couple there and combine them. *The only problem with this wild theory is that it is not true!!*

Lucifer is the King of Babylon and Satan is Satan

For a further, more in-depth view of this subject, I highly recommend: “*Noah’s Flood, Joshua’s Long Day and Lucifer’s Fall*” by *Ralph Woodrow!*